Violation of PNDT Act

2045. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of violations of Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 have been reported to the National Monitoring and Inspection Committee since the Supreme Court Judgement W.P. No. 301/2000; and

(b) how many violations of Act have been subsequently followed up through registration of cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The implementation of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDT) Act, 1994 rests with the States and UnionTerritories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act. Teams of National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) also visit the States/Union Territories from time to time to see the implementation of the Act on the ground. The NIMC noticed 65 violations of the PC & PNDT Act during their visit to the States of Gujarat, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The violations include non-registration of ultrasound centres and non-maintenance of records. The concerned District Appropriate Authorities take action on all violations noticed by them or those brought to their notice on the advise of the Advisory Committee constituted for each Appropriate Authority. As per information available on 28.02.2006, 383 cases, including the cases came to the notice through NIMC, are filed in different courts for violating different provisions of the Act.

Health camps along the Ganga banks

2046. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently for the first time, a group of doctors and youngmen walked along the banks of Ganga for creating health awareness and educating the rural population and conducted health camps;

(b) whether the unique concept was provided with necessary funds in order to make the yatra a grand success;

(c) which are the places/States where health camps were conducted during the yatra; and

(d) whether Government are considering to make it a regular feature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

MoU with IAVI for AIDS control

2047. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into a MoU with International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) for accelerating the efforts to develop a vaccine to counter HIV, according to a news report; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details are:

(1) *Phase-I clinical trial at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune*

NARI, Pune has initiated Phase I clinical trial on 7th Feb. 2005, of a vaccine candidate named tgAAC09 (recombinant Adeno-Associated viral vector, rAAV). It has been produced by Targeted Genetics Corp. (NASDAQ:TGEN), a settle-based biotechnology company, and Columbus Children's Research Institute (CCRI) in Ohio in partnership with IAVI. The vaccine candidate tgAAC09 is modelled after subtype C of HIV, the dominant subtype of HIV prevalent in India. The recruitment and vaccination of the planned number of volunteers has been completed. The result from this Phase I trial will be analysed jointly at the end of the trial in early 2007.

(2) *Phase-I clinical trial at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai*

ICMR's Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai launched the second phase I clinical trial on AIDS in Feb. 2006. The investigational